

HSA'S WILL CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS THAN THEY SOLVE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, for 5 years there was a silence at the White House about the issue of health care and how it is deteriorating in this country. The access has gotten worse and worse and worse under this administration.

The other night, in the State of the Union, the President, apparently the polling told him there is a problem out there. So he came out here with another one of his Band-Aids: Let's give everybody a health savings account. A more ridiculous proposal could not have been made on the floor to deal with the problems of average Americans.

To expect average Americans to be able to put aside enough money to pay a \$10,000 deductible and then buy a catastrophic plan is simply not from the real world. The average American in this country is fighting day to day, paycheck to paycheck, and our President comes up with another one of his tax giveaways to the rich.

The only people who benefit from this are wealthy people who can take 10,000 bucks out of their pocket and pay it when it comes due. We ought to stop that and start a debate in this House between the Democrats and Republicans. That is the only way we will get sensible health care coverage for all Americans. They deserve it.

THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON RANCHERS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to discuss the impact that illegal immigration has on the ranchers along the Mexican border. I recently spent a week along the Mexican-California border to see firsthand how bad the problem was and what Congress could do to fix it.

I sat down in the living rooms of four different families who own ranches along the border. One couple, Ed and Donna Tisdale, documented on home video 13,000 illegal aliens crossing their property in one year alone.

The Tisdales had their barbed wire fences cut by illegals running off the family's cattle. When their dogs barked to scare off intruders, the dogs were poisoned.

Another rancher told me about numerous break-ins at his home while his family slept, as illegal aliens tried to find food and clothing. One morning his daughters had gone out to feed their pet bunny rabbits, only to find them skinned and taken for food by illegal aliens trying to escape to a nearby highway.

Madam Speaker, the House has recently passed a tough border security

bill. I urge the Senate to act now to address this problem.

VIEW FROM THE COUNTRY CLUB

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the view from the country club is great. We have heard a few Republicans waxing poetic about how good the economy is. Jobs, prosperity, happy days are here again. All due to the tax cuts.

There is a real result to the tax cuts. Last year we had the largest deficit in the history of the United States. We borrowed hundreds of billions of dollars and we are going to hand the bill only to people who work for wages and salary, who generally earn less than \$100,000 a year, and to their kids and grandkids.

The wealthy should not pay any portion of that in their version of America because they are the wealth generators. The fourth increase in the national debt since George Bush took office; 60 percent increase in the national debt. That is the result of their tax cut policies.

And wages, they have not budged: 99 percent of the people in America working for wages and salaries saw their real incomes decline last year. One percent did well, those \$300,000 and up, and \$1.3 million and up, they did great. And those are the folks they were having lunch with when they heard how great the economy is in America. I wonder who picked up the tab.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER BERLUSCONI TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Italian Government has transformed into a vibrant democracy that delivers liberty and opportunity.

While Italy has historically been recognized for its extraordinary beauty and rich culture, today it is respected internationally as a champion of freedom.

Today, Congress is honored to be joined by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a man who has furthered democracy in his country and throughout the world. As an ally in the global war on terrorism, he has led thousands of Italian troops to join American soldiers in stopping the spread of terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, protecting Italian and American families.

As President Bush said yesterday, Prime Minister Berlusconi is a man who keeps his word. His steady friendship demonstrates his strong belief in persistence and international cooperation.

I join my colleagues in welcoming him to the United States Congress.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PEACE CORPS

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today for some very good news. It is news the history of this country's anniversary of the Peace Corps. When I was a college student, I was really impressed that the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, had asked the people of this country to ask what they could do for their country, not what the country could do for them.

And since then, people have been joining the Peace Corps. In fact, 182,000 people have served in the Peace Corps, serving in over 138 countries. Now, why is it so important to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps? Well, in the first case, we just recently heard from General Abizaid, who is the supreme commander in the Middle East, that peace can never be obtained until Americans learn to cross the cultural divide. A very profound statement from a warrior.

I ask those persons in the United States who want to help sustain the peace in this world to join the Peace Corps. It will be the greatest job, hardest job you have ever enjoyed. I did it when I was a young college student. I invite others at any age to join today.

Americans have served as a testament to this country. I hope they will continue for many years.

PEACE CORPS

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I salute Mr. FARR on his work with the Peace Corps, and I rise too as well to salute that 45th anniversary.

President Kennedy, as was mentioned, started the Peace Corps and asked his brother-in-law, R. Sargent Shriver to command, and appointed him as the first director. As the year progressed, the program continued to grow, sending volunteers to Ghana, Tanzania, Colombia, the Philippines, Chile, and St. Lucia. More than 5,000 applicants took the first exams to enter the Peace Corps. It has grown significantly in numbers.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with a number of volunteers who were currently working in Guatemala and appreciate the hard work that they are doing in the destitute regions of that country. I would also like to salute and commend the following constituents from my district who have been serving in the Peace Corps in those various countries: Benjamin Andrews in South Africa, Megan Chodora